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advocated by Atchison in speeches in Missouri and that Douglas introduced the bill only after it had been repeatedly urged upon him—that he became connected with the movement only at a very late period though he claimed to have advocated it for “eight long years.”

The book emphasizes two facts as to our writing of American history—that there are still important factors shaping our national legislation which have not been given their proper prominence—though this is less true of the frontier than of some other influences; and that state politics and sectionalism are influences which it is only too easy to overlook or underestimate.

The author has spared no effort to get together all the available material, and fortifies his statements with abundant footnote references to the authorities on which he relies. The latter part of the book presents the chief documents on the subject, a selected bibliography and an excellent index.

CHESTER LLOYD JONES.

University of Pennsylvania.

Schurz, Carl. *The Reminiscences Of.* 3 vols. Pp. xi, 1333. Price, \$6.00. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1909.

Few men meet such varied and interesting experiences as were the fortune of Carl Schurz, and few men who attempt autobiography are masters of so pleasing a style. The three volumes in which the tale of this long life is told keep the attention of the reader as few novels do. The first treats the author's youth, the second the prime of life, the third, the period during which Mr. Schurz stood prominent as the leader of independents in national politics and as a political sage. The latter part of this volume was written by Mr. Frederick Bancroft and Prof. W. A. Dunning after Mr. Schurz's death. This portion covers the last three decades of the nineteenth century during which occurred the greater part of Mr. Schurz's political activity. The authors are to be complimented upon the sympathetic and thorough presentation of Mr. Schurz's public service but one cannot but regret that this, the most interesting period of his life, could not have been described by the great statesman himself.

Volume one is chiefly valuable to the American for its literary charm and the intimate touch it gives with a civilization now rapidly disappearing. The feudal relations of the German peasant classes with their lords, the simple home life and curious village customs are described with a detail and wealth of illustration which makes the book as vivid as a spoken narrative. Especially interesting are the descriptions of student days in the German universities and the thrilling times of the Revolution of 1848, connection with which caused the author's abrupt departure for America. With this portion of the first volume begins the real contribution which the volumes make to history. The student of the struggles for freer governments will find in these pages a fascinating picture of the trials of the leaders of a cause lost at that time, but the principles of which were to triumph a generation later.

The second volume covers the period from the arrival in New York in 1852 to the darkest period of the Civil War—the spring of 1863. During this time Mr. Schurz mastered the English language and won his way into the front rank in public affairs. He knew most of the great men of the time, and his criticisms of them presented here are always trenchant, independent and judicial. Douglas, Sumner, Chase, Lincoln, Grant, and a host of lesser men are passed in review. The life of the time, campaign incidents, the political issues and personal anecdotes enliven the story of the tense period when the storm of the rebellion was gathering. Interesting digressions treat such subjects as freedom of speech, party allegiance, the Dred Scott Decision, and the necessity of emancipation. The importance of the latter in its bearing on the relation of Europe to the war was first urged upon President Lincoln by Mr. Schurz.

The last volume covers the period from the Gettysburg campaign to Mr. Schurz's death. Only Mr. Schurz's war experience and his work in connection with reconstruction are presented by the author himself. The latter portion of the book, as already noted, is written by others aided by the papers of Mr. Schurz. No recent autobiography so fully deserves the attention of those interested in the development of our national life. The lives of few men furnish so adequate a picture of the times in which they lived.

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University of Pennsylvania.

Seligman, E. R. A. *Progressive Taxation in Theory and Practice.* Pp. 334. Price, \$1.25. Princeton, N. J.: American Economic Association, 1908.

The second edition of this work, which originally appeared some fourteen years ago, illustrates no new or startling principle of taxation, nor has the author's viewpoint changed with the added legislation and discussion of the subject. On the contrary, his assumption that the progressive principle is slowly, but surely, obtaining universal favor, finds support in the more recent modifications in the different taxing systems throughout the world. A careful and statistical study has been made of the principal countries as to the funds for revenue and the means employed for raising them—the analysis being confined to those cases where graduation, either progressive or digressive, existed, or where proportionality was the basis. Following this, the whole theory of progression is elaborated from several viewpoints—including the Socialistic, benefit and faculty theories. A classification of authorities upon the subject, relative to their attitude toward the different theories of progression not only brings out more clearly a fair conception of each argument advanced, but also serves to show the increasing investigation and discussion of what is now considered in many ways to be the most logical and equitable basis of taxation.

Of special interest to American readers is the application of the principle of progression to taxation within this country. The general property tax, income, inheritance and corporation taxes receive consideration as